

Abstract

AQUEOUS COMPOSITIONS AND THEIR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF PAPER AND PAPERBOARD

5

A process of preparing an aqueous composition comprising a polysilicate, wherein the composition is a substantially uniform liquid when measured at 25°C, comprising the steps of,

i) providing an aqueous liquid having a source of silicate,

10

ii) adjusting the pH of the liquid to between about 2 and about 10.5, thereby causing polymerization of the silicate,

iii) allowing sufficient time for the polymerization to proceed to substantial completion and thereby forming a product comprising gelled material,

and

15

iv) subjecting the gelled material to sufficient shear to form a substantially uniform liquid. The novel aqueous composition made by this process is useful in the manufacture of paper and paperboard either as a mineral filler or as a retention/drainage aid.